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formerly thought to be absorbed or taken into the plant through the leaves. . . . It is now thought that even the air must furnish its food to plants through the roots."—H. HASSELBRING.

Biology of plants.

ONE OF THE first to appreciate the modern ecological view-point was Professor Wiesner, who issued his classical *Biologie der Pflanzen* in 1889. A second edition of this work has appeared⁴ in which no radical change of treatment is to be seen. Throughout the new edition, however, the contributions of the past decade are found intercalated in their proper places. In the introduction there is a fuller setting forth of vitalism and mechanism. Among the topics which are added or much changed are polarity, light and rain adaptations, photometry (the author's own work). The chapter on evolution is also much changed, and the last part is largely new. The order of the chapters is as follows: SECTION I, Biology of the vegetative processes: the individual; survey of the plant forms according to their mode of life (biological types); primordia, development, form and direction of organs; polarity, correlations, and leaf position; complications in determining the causes of organic forms; rhythm of the vegetative processes; germination of seeds and buds; vegetative growth; flowering and fruiting; rest periods and leaf-fall; adaptation of plants to external vegetative conditions; adaptation of plants to other organisms; specific adaptations, reproduction; life duration; vitality. SECTION II, Biological relations of reproduction; distribution of sexual organs; wind-pollinated plants; insect pollinated plants; other aids to pollination, and transitions from one form to another; reciprocal pollination; adaptations for self-pollination; protective adaptations of flowers; apogamy. SECTION III, Distribution of plants; fundamental principles and problems; vegetation forms and formations; distribution areas of species, genera and families; principles of systematic phytogeography. SECTION IV, Development of the plant world (theory of descent). APPENDIX: Historical development of botany. Thus one may see how thorough and comprehensive is this admirable treatise on plant biology, or, as we would say, ecology.—H. C. COWLES.

Plant geography.

THE SIXTH volume of the invaluable series, *Vegetation der Erde*, is by Drude himself and embraces much of the material which he has been gathering for years in his own home-land of Saxony.⁵ Just as Graebner's work on

⁴ WIESNER, JULIUS, Biologie der Pflanzen, mit einem Anhang: die historische Entwicklung der Botanik. Zweite, vermehrte und verbesserte Auflage. 8vo. pp. viii + 340. figs. 78 and 1 map. Vienna: Alfred Hölder. 1902.

⁵ DRUDE, O., Der Hercynische Florenbezirk. 8vo. pp. xix + 671. pls. 5. figs. 16. 1 map. Leipzig; Wilhelm Engelmann. 1902. M\$30, bound M\$31.50; to subscribers M\$20-21.50.